

Message Text

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ACTION L-01

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R 281436Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4590

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 3682

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, CS

SUBJECT: VESCO EXTRADITION: QUESTIONS FOR ATTORNEY

REF: STATE 180090

1. ORTIZ PRESENTED WITH QUESTIONS AND OTHER BASIC DOCUMENTS JULY 23. HE WILL PROVIDE ESTIMATES REQUESTED ASAP. HE SAID HE WILL GIVE MOST ACCURATE ESTIMATE HE CAN, BUT REQUESTED THAT USG BE FLEXIBLE ABOUT FINAL OUTCOME OF HOURS.

2. ORTIZ PREPARED TO TRAVEL AS SOON AS NECESSARY. HE INFORMED US THAT HIS PREVIOUSLY PLANNED TRAVEL ON IBM BUSINESS HAS BEEN CALLED OFF; IBM WILL BE VISITING HIM HERE INSTEAD. NO OTHER PRIVATE BUSINESS TRAVEL IS PRESENTLY CONTEMPLATED. ACCORDINGLY, JUSTICE SHOULD PLAN TO FUND ORTIZ AIR TRAVEL.

3. ORTIZ MADE TWO OTHER REQUESTS:

A. THAT IF HE GETS SPECIFIC LAW BOOK REFERENCES (DURING PRESENT STAGE AND LATER) MAY BE ABLE TO CALL ON USG TO ASSIST HIM TO OBTAIN THEM. EMBOFF ASSURED ORTIZ THAT EMBASSY WOULD CABLE NAMES HE PROVIDED OF ANY SUCH REFERENCES NOT AVAILABLE LOCALLY TO WASHINGTON WITH REQUEST THAT THEY BE OBTAINED

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FROM DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE LIBRARY, OR WHEREVER.

B. THAT EMBASSY PROVIDE ORTIZ LETTER STATING THAT HE HAS BEEN ENGAGED TO STUDY A POSSIBLE VESCO EXTRADITION AND TO REPRESENT USG IN ACTUAL EXTRADITION REQUEST SHOULD IT MATERIALIZE. UNLESS DEPARTMENT HAS OBJECTION, EMBASSY PLANNING TO PROVIDE SUCH LETTER WITH FOLLOWING TEXT:

(BEGIN QUOTE) THIS LETTER WILL CONFIRM OUR RECENT DISCUSSIONS IN WHICH YOU HAVE ACCEPTED THE OFFER OF THE DEPARTMENTS OF JUSTICE AND STATE TO SERVE AS LEGAL COUNSEL TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IN THE MATTER OF THE EXTRADITION OF ROBERT LEE VESCO TO THE UNITED STATES.

AS WE HAVE AGREED, YOUR SERVICES WILL BE IN TWO PHASES. THE FIRST WILL BE FOR A STUDY OF THE CASE, INCLUDING CONSULTATIONS WITH USG OFFICIALS IN THE U.S. AND IN COSTA RICA. FOLLOWING THE STUDY, IF THE DECISION IS MADE TO EXTRADITE, YOU WILL PROVIDE LEGAL COUNSEL TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR THE ACTUAL EXTRADITION PROCEEDINGS IN COSTA RICA.

ONCE AGAIN, LET ME EXPRESS IN MY NAME AND IN THAT OF MY GOVERNMENT, OUR GREAT SATISFACTION THAT YOU HAVE AGREED TO TAKE THIS CASE. WE LOOK FORWARD TO A CLOSE AND FRUITFUL WORKING RELATIONSHIP. (END QUOTE)

4. IN ORDER TO PRESERVE CONFIDENTIALITY THAT ORTIZ HAS REQUESTED, EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT ALL ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ORTIZ TRAVEL AND REMUNERATION BE HANDLED OUT OF WASHINGTON. EMBASSY HAPPY TO BE CHANNEL, BUT DOES NOT THINK IT WISE FOR LOCAL EMPLOYEES TO ISSUE ORTIZ AIRLINE TICKETS OR TO PROCESS OTHER PAYMENT. ACCORDINGLY, EMBASSY SUGGESTS EITHER: (1) THAT OPEN-DATED PLANE TICKET FOR ORTIZ (ROUND TRIP, FIRST CLASS, SAN JOSE-WASHINGTON-NEW YORK-WASHINGTON-SAN JOSE) BE POUCHED TO EMBASSY (ATTENTION: POLITICAL SECTION CHIEF MAISTO) OR (2) ORTIZ BE INSTRUCTED TO PURCHASE OWN TICKET WITH UNDERSTANDING THAT HE WILL BE REIMBURSED PROMPTLY REPEAT PROMPTLY AFTER HIS ARRIVAL FOR CONSULTATIONS.

5. FUTURE REMUNERATION CAN BE HANDLED BY DOLLAR CHECK
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THAT EMBASSY CAN DELIVER. ENVELOPES CONTAINING CHECKS SHOULD ALSO BE ADDRESSED TO MAISTO.
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